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PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW  
U.S. 91 ABANDONMENT

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Helena, Montana 59601

Prepared by  
Planning and Research Bureau  
Montana Department of Highways

March, 1977

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Preliminary environmental review, U.S. 9



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## I. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ENVIRONMENT

### A. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to conduct a preliminary environmental review in order to make a determination as to whether the abandonment action may have a significant effect on the Butte human environment.

### B. Abandonment Defined

For the purpose of this report abandonment is defined as the release of jurisdiction and maintenance responsibilities of a public road by the Montana Department of Highways to local government if a future public use is determined or closure of the public road if no public purpose is served.

### C. Description of the Proposed Action

The proposed action involves the abandonment of U.S. 91, a Federal Aid Primary Highway, which connects the City of Butte, Montana from its intersection with Continental Drive north to the Old U.S. 91 Interstate 15 junction on the Woodville Hill. This highway segment is routed through the Anaconda ACM Mining Complex and nearly vacated McQueen East Butte Area.

U.S. 91 originally constructed in 1920 was reconstructed in 1950 as the principal access route to Butte from the northeast. In 1966, Interstate 15 was constructed rerouting a major portion of the traffic from Old U.S. 91 to Interstate 15 and 90 further to the south. One major modification has already been made to the Old U.S. 91 route resulting from expansion of the Anaconda Company owned Berkeley



Pit. This major modification required utilization of a portion of Continental Drive which in turn substantially reduced the directness of the route into the Butte Central Business District. Later minor modifications were made to add certain safety features to the re-routed highway.

## II. ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS

Possible alternatives considered with respect to abandonment of U.S. 91 include the following:

### Alternative 1 - Abandon Without Replacement

This alternative would consider abandoning the Old U.S. 91 highway facility without requiring any type of replacement road facility either in the near vicinity or within the Butte Urban Area.

### Alternative 2 - Abandon With Replacement

Under this alternative, replacement would require either similar facility replacement or modifications to other parts of the Butte Transportation System.

#### A. Similar Replacement Facility -

The proposed Columbia Gardens Interchange was determined unfeasible in the Butte, Montana Urban Transportation Plan and subsequent mining activity near the site precludes construction of this proposal.

#### B. Modifications to Other Parts of the Butte Transportation System

1. Upgrade the Harrison Avenue Interchange - feasible.
2. Shift East Butte Interchange and provide ramps on Continental Drive - unfeasible - Possible lower standard ramp design on Continental Drive Overpass may be feasible.



### Alternative 3 - Not Abandon

Retain U.S. 91 facility as is without vacating or abandoning the right of way. It is possible that an overpass to separate the haul road and Old U.S. 91 may be constructed by the Anaconda Company should this alternative be selected. However interest by the mining firm to construct this type of facility seems to have diminished.

## III. EVALUATION OF THE IMMEDIATE AND CUMULATIVE IMPACT ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

It is doubtful that, should abandonment of U.S. 91 take place, a significant impact would result on the physical environment for the following reasons:

### A. Immediate Impacts

1. U.S. 91 is presently a high activity form of land use. Abandoning the highway right of way would lead to mining also a high activity land use form.
2. The U.S. 91 right of way is a small portion of land in relation to the total area being mined.
3. Original land use forms have already been substantially modified.
4. The Anaconda Company site including U.S. 91 being considered for abandonment has been designated in the Butte Community's transportation and comprehensive land use planning program as an area set aside for mining and related activities.  
(Refer to Appendix 1)
5. Mining in the U.S. 91 right of way itself would not appear to cause any noticable changes in the extent of additional dust, activity or noise levels.
6. It is possible that removing the road facility would cause



land drainage pattern changes.

B. Cumulative Impacts

7. Abandonment of the U.S. 91 right of way will facilitate movement of mining operations in closer proximity to adjacent residential areas in the north flats neighborhood thereby increasing the exposure to dust, higher activity, noise levels and resulting in greater visual deterioration. (Refer to Appendix 2)

IV. EVALUATION OF THE IMMEDIATE AND CUMULATIVE IMPACT ON THE HUMAN POPULATION IN THE AREA TO BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED ACTION.

A. Immediate Impacts

1. Loss of access would effect an estimated 40 non-Anaconda Company held mining tracts on Woodville Hill, twenty four of which are immediately adjacent to U.S. 91.
2. Loss of access to three remaining commercial, 24 residential properties, two fire station facilities and a playground in the McQueen-East Butte area at this time would have a detrimental effect on the values of these remaining properties. The Anaconda Company has indicated that they would acquire these properties by July 1, 1977.
3. The abandonment of U.S. 91 would result in additional distance, time and operating costs for all U.S. 91 users originating in neighborhoods north of the I-90 - I-15 Interstate System in Butte. Annual additional costs to the Butte Community are estimated at \$63,552.
4. Approximately 433 trips would be rerouted to the Harrison Avenue Interchange already substantially congested.



5. Loss of U.S. 91 access from the U.S. 91 - I-15 Junction would cause considerable backtracking through neighborhood areas in order to gain entrance to the Silver Bow County General Hospital and other land use activities located in the southeast Flats and northeast Country Club neighborhood areas. Infiltration through neighborhood areas with emergency vehicles and additional traffic would both produce a hazardous condition and aid in reducing the quality adjoining residential environments.
  6. The more direct access via U.S. 91 would be lost to the existing Butte Central Business District. A few commercial establishments located along the path from U.S. 91's intersection with Continental Drive west toward the C.B.D. and south toward the Silver Bow County Hospital would appear to be affected by the loss of traffic exposure.
  7. Some minor direct access loss (excluding the Silver Bow County Hospital) would result to religious, cultural, educational, and recreational facilities.
  8. Since the C.B.D. included a large number of trip origins some of which may be employment related it is possible that closure of U.S. 91 would have a minor effect on employment in the downtown area.
  9. Impacts are not evident to any particular social structures, mores, cultures, or minorities.
- B. Cumulative Impacts
10. Possible loss of commercial establishments on Continental Drive through a reduction in traffic exposure resulting from abandonment of U.S. 91 would cause a loss in the local and State tax base resulting in a loss of tax revenues.



11. It is conceivable that the vacating of the U.S. 91 facility which would thereby facilitate mining operations in closer proximity to the Flats neighborhood area could aid in reducing the residential area's human health conditions.
12. Not abandoning the U.S. 91 right of way may lead to a loss in industrial copper production and further loss in employment.
13. Abandonment of the U.S. 91 facility does not appear to be in conflict with the Butte Community Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plans.
14. The closing of the U.S. 91 highway facility may create some additional demands for energy due to the additional distance required to be traveled. However vehicle engine efficiencies travelling at higher speeds with less stops and turning movements on the Interstate may offset these additional energy demands by savings in the form of gasoline, oil, and tires.
15. Retention of Old U.S. 91 would require additional energy demands through maintenance and reconstruction (estimated to be needed in 3 to 5 years).

#### V. CONTACTS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Attached on the next page is a notification letter and list of agencies, groups and individuals contacted in regards to abandonment of U.S. 91. Responses to the notification letter are included behind the notification list.





STATE OF MONTANA  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

May 1, 1975

U. S. 91 Abandonment  
North of Butte

Planning & Research DIVISION	
MAY 6 1975	
FILE	

Gentlemen:

The Montana Department of Highways has been requested by the Anaconda Company to abandon a section of Federal-aid Route 3 also known as U. S. 91. The proposed abandonment would begin at the intersection of Stuart Street and Continental Drive in Butte and extend approximately 3.2 miles northeasterly along U. S. 91 to near its present junction with Interstate 15 at the top of Woodville Hill. The attached map shows the portion of road that would be abandoned. The Anaconda Company has requested that this abandonment be made in order to expedite their eventual expansion of their open pit mining operation in this section of the Butte urban area.

The segment of U. S. 91 proposed for abandonment directly serves the central business district of Butte and other areas and in 1974 carried an average daily traffic volume of 640 vehicles. The Butte urban area is presently served by interchanges with Interstate 15 and Interstate 90 on the south, east, and west. The abandonment of that portion of U. S. 91 described above would necessitate out-of-direction travel for the vehicles presently using this facility.

The Department of Highways, before acting on the Anaconda Company's petition for abandonment, is studying the possible effects and impacts such an abandonment would have. Therefore, this letter is being sent to inform you and those on the distribution of our intentions to perform these studies and to ask you to provide any information that you may have concerning the proposal. This information could pertain to such matters as any possible problems the abandonment could cause, environmental concerns you may have, or views or opinions for or against the proposal. During our studies, alternate means of access to help mitigate that lost by the abandonment will be investigated.

GEORGE J. JONES, JR., Director



A public hearing will be held at the appropriate time to allow the public to voice their opinions concerning the alternates that will be selected during the study of the proposal.

The following list indicates those to whom this letter is being sent. If you are aware of other agencies, groups, or individuals that might be concerned and are not on the list, please notify us and we will contact them.

Department of Fish & Game  
Assistant Administrator (2 copies)  
Environment & Information Division  
Sam W. Mitchell Building  
Helena, Montana 59601

Mr. Clark Neilson  
Dept. of Health & Environmental Sciences  
Air Quality Bureau  
Cogswell Building  
Helena, Montana 59601

Federal Housing Administration  
Housing & Urban Development  
Director  
616 Helena Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59601

U. S. Dept. of Transportation  
Federal Aviation Administration  
FAA Building, Room 2  
Helena Airport  
Helena, Montana 59601

Montana Stockgrowers Association  
Secretary  
P. O. Box 1679  
First National Bank Building  
Helena, Montana 59601

U. S. Dept. of Agriculture  
State Conservationist  
Soil Conservation Service  
P. O. Box 970  
Bozeman, Montana 59715

U. S. Coast Guard  
Commander (oan)  
Thirteenth Coast Guard District  
618 Second Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98122

Frank Benich, President  
Van Butte Exploration, Inc.  
c/o George W. Richardson  
Attorney at Law - P. O. Box 803  
Butte, Montana 59701

State Clearinghouse  
Office of Budget & Program Planning  
Capitol Post Office  
Helena, Montana 59601

Department of Fish & Game  
Administrator Recreation & Parks  
Sam W. Mitchell Building  
Helena, Montana 59601

U. S. Department of Interior (14 copies)  
Assistant Secretary - Program Policy  
Attn: Director, Environmental Proj. Review  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Department of State Lands  
Commissioners Office  
Capitol Station  
Helena, Montana 59601

Dept. Natural Resources & Conservation  
Administrator - Conservation District Div.  
32 South Iwing  
Helena, Montana 59601

Dept. Natural Resources & Conservation  
Director  
32 South Iwing  
Helena, Montana 59601

Dept. of Intergovernmental Relations  
Aeronautics Division  
P. O. Box 1698  
Helena, Montana 59601

Environmental Quality Council  
Director (2 copies)  
P.O. Box 215 - Capitol Post Office  
Helena, Montana 59601



Montana Wildlife Federation  
Chairwoman, Highway Committee  
1015 Peosta  
Helena, Montana 59601

Sierra Club  
Bitterroot Mission Group  
P. O. Box 315  
Missoula, Montana 59801

U. S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration  
501 North Fee  
Helena, Montana 59601

Director of Public Works  
City of Butte  
City Hall  
Butte, Montana 59701

School District No. 1  
Attn: Robert Vivian  
3231 Busch Street  
Butte, Montana 59701

Defense Civil Preparedness Agency  
Federal Regional Center  
Bothell, Washington 98011

Institute of Applied Research  
Montana State University  
Bozeman, Montana 59715

Montana League of Conservation Voters  
1823 Highland  
Helena, Montana 59601

The Wilderness Society  
4260 East Evans Avenue  
Denver, Colorado 80222

Bearings Inc.  
510 East Aluminum  
Butte, Montana 59701

Beneficial Finance Company of Butte  
120 W. Park  
Butte, Montana 59701

Board of County Commissioners  
Silver Bow County  
Courthouse  
Butte, Montana 59701

City County Planning Board  
President  
Courthouse  
Butte, Montana 59701

Department of the Army  
Seattle District, Corps of Engineers  
1519 Alaskan Way South  
Seattle, Washington 98104

D. J. McCaig, Secretary  
Butte Uptown Association  
P. O. Box 37  
Butte, Montana 59701

First Metals Bank & Trust Company  
Park & Main  
Butte, Montana 59701

Friends of the Earth  
P. O. Box 882  
Billings, Montana 59103

Montana Automobile Association  
P. O. Box 1703  
Helena, Montana 59601

Mr. Richard P. Graetz  
P. O. Box 894  
Helena, Montana 59601

Automotive Supply Company  
115 South Arizona  
Butte, Montana 59701

Beebe Grain Company  
712 East Front  
Butte, Montana 59701

Bertoglio Storage & Distributing Company  
800 Utah Avenue  
Butte, Montana 59701



Bob & Joe's Wholesale Company  
813 South Arizona  
Butte, Montana 59701

Brown's Auto Parts Company  
25 South Montana  
Butte, Montana 59701

Cannon-Lowden Company  
630 Utah Avenue  
Butte, Montana 59701

Chevron Oil Company  
1021 South Montana  
Butte, Montana 59701

Christie's  
20 West Broadway  
Butte, Montana 59701

City Transfer Line  
743 South Wyoming  
Butte, Montana 59701

Cooney Brokerage Company  
600 South Arizona  
Butte, Montana 59701

Crystal Creamery  
301 South Main  
Butte, Montana 59701

Dahlman Transfer & Trucking  
750 Utah Avenue  
Butte, Montana 59701

Farmers Union Trading Company  
701 East Front  
Butte, Montana 59701

First National Bank  
101 North Main  
Butte, Montana 59701

Gamer Shoe Store  
54 West Park  
Butte, Montana 59701

Gleaves Volkswagen Inc.  
53 West Granite  
Butte, Montana 59701

Burlington Northern Inc.  
640 South Arizona  
Butte, Montana 59701

Brown Foods Company  
803 South Montana  
Butte, Montana 59701

Capital Transfer & Storage  
928 East Front  
Butte, Montana 59701

Christie Transfer & Storage Company  
610 East Aluminum  
Butte, Montana 59701

City Taxi  
39 East Broadway  
Butte, Montana 59701

Cobre Tire Sales & Service  
222 East Park  
Butte, Montana 59701

Copper City Chevrolet-Buick  
Galena & Colorado  
Butte, Montana 59701

Currie Tire Service  
101 East Park  
Butte, Montana 59701

Eddy's Bakery  
Front & Harrison Avenue  
Butte, Montana 59701

Finberg's Furniture Store  
44 East Park  
Butte, Montana 59701

Floor Store & Drapery Center  
701 Utah Avenue  
Butte, Montana 59701

Garrett Freightlines Inc.  
601 Garden Avenue  
Butte, Montana 59701

H. B. Brink  
827 East Front  
Butte, Montana 59701



Hennessey's Department Store  
130 North Main  
Butte, Montana 59701

Highland Motor Company, Inc.  
400 East Front  
Butte, Montana 59701

Household Finance Corporation  
127 N. Main  
Butte, Montana 59701

J. C. Penney Company, Inc.  
42 West Park  
Butte, Montana 59701

J. W. Harkins Bottling Company  
22 East Quartz  
Butte, Montana 59701

Kitto's Transfer & Storage  
700 East Front  
Butte, Montana 59701

Knievel Imports Inc.  
100 East Galena  
Butte, Montana 59701

Monitor Distributors Inc.  
604 Utah Avenue  
Helena, Montana 59601

Montana Broom & Brush Company  
730 East Iron  
Butte, Montana 59701

Montana Hardware  
823 South Montana  
Butte, Montana 59701

Montgomery Ward Company  
47 East Broadway  
Butte, Montana 59701

Owl Cab Company  
1 South Main  
Butte, Montana 59701

Paint by Hall Brothers  
1131 Utah Avenue  
Butte, Montana 59701

Kunkel Pontiac-GMC Inc.  
1900 Harrison Avenue  
Butte, Montana 59701

Leskovar Motors  
39 East Galena  
Butte, Montana 59701

Mayor of Butte  
City Hall  
Butte, Montana 59701

McGree's Trucking  
500 South Main  
Butte, Montana 59701

Micone's  
114 South Montana  
Butte, Montana 59701

Miller's Shoe Store  
301 South Arizona  
Butte, Montana 59701

Miners Bank of Montana  
Miners Bank Building  
Butte, Montana 59701

Mountain States Telephone Company  
441 North Park  
Helena, Montana 59601

Newbro Drug Company  
702 South Arizona  
Butte, Montana 59701

Newman's Bootery  
76 East Park  
Butte, Montana 59701

Ossello's  
926 South Arizona  
Butte, Montana 59701

Pacific Hide & Fur Depot  
Short & Gaylord  
Butte, Montana 59701

Paumie Cleaners  
60 West Galena  
Butte, Montana 59701



Phil Judd Sports Store  
83 East Park  
Butte, Montana 59701

Pioneer Concrete & Fuel Inc.  
843 Maryland Avenue  
Butte, Montana 59701

Pioneer Lumber Company  
216 East Front  
Butte, Montana 59701

Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company  
845 Utah  
Butte, Montana 59701

Quilici Glass  
726 South Arizona  
Butte, Montana 59701

Reynolds Distribution Co., Inc.  
845 South Montana  
Butte, Montana 59701

Richards & Rochelle Men's Store  
17 North Main  
Butte, Montana 59701

Rosenberg's Furniture Company  
120 North Main  
Butte, Montana 59701

S. J. Perry Company  
712 South Arizona  
Butte, Montana 59701

Sears, Roebuck & Company  
32 East Granite  
Butte, Montana 59701

Shiners Furniture Company  
75 East Park Plaza  
Butte, Montana 59701

Skaggs Drug Centers  
27 West Park  
Butte, Montana 59701

Standard Furniture Store  
65 East Park Plaza  
Butte, Montana 59701

Sullivan Valve & Mfg. Company  
28 East Galena  
Butte, Montana 59701

Texaco Inc.  
220 Alaska  
Butte, Montana 59701

The Anaconda Company  
Quartz & Main  
Butte, Montana 59701

The Montana Power Company  
40 East Broadway  
Butte, Montana 59701

The Toggery  
117 North Main  
Butte, Montana 59701

Town Talk Bakery  
611 East Front  
Butte, Montana 59701

Treasure State Window Cleaning Company  
100 West Granite  
Butte, Montana 59701

Treasure States Sporting Goods, Inc.  
18 West Park  
Butte, Montana 59701

Union Oil Co. of California  
610 East Iron  
Butte, Montana 59701

United Building Centers  
100 East Front  
Butte, Montana 59701

Wein's  
35 East Park  
Butte, Montana 59701

Westinghouse Electric Corporation  
949 South Montana  
Butte, Montana 59701

Williams Camera Shop  
33 West Park  
Butte, Montana 59701



Page 7

Wilson Motor Company  
8 South Montana  
Butte, Montana 59701

Mile High Conservation District  
Montana Tech.  
Butte, Montana 59701

U. S. Postmaster  
Butte, Montana 59701

Very truly yours,

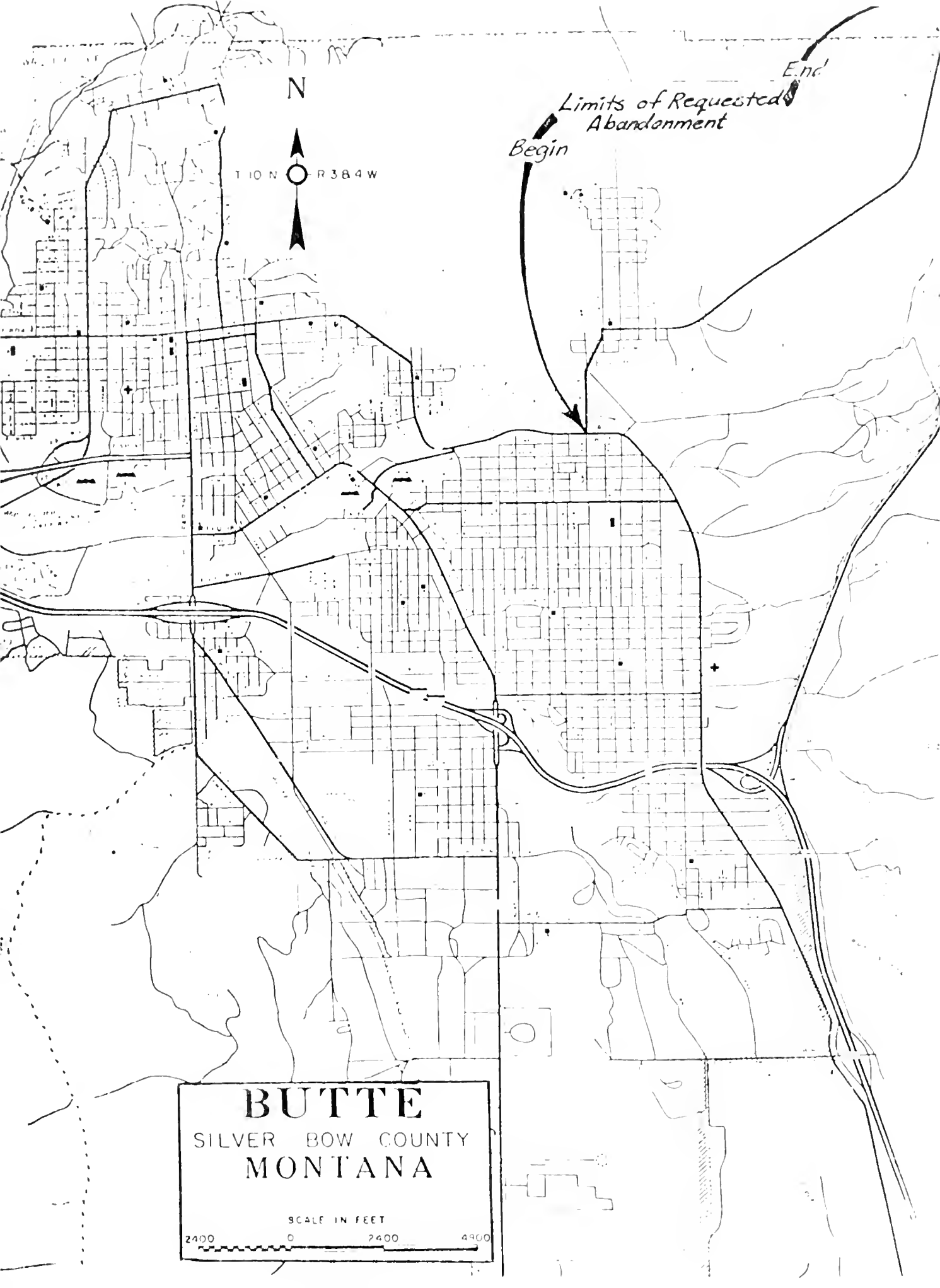
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

By SCK  
Stephen C. Kologi, P. E., Chief  
Preconstruction Bureau

52-SCK:KFS:JCU:mg  
Attachment

cc: S. C. Kologi	W/Atch.
R. E. Champion	"
✓ P. R. DeVine	"
D. D. Anderson	"
R. B. Dundas	"
L. B. Fox	"
D. S. Johnson	"
Peter Berry	"
K. F. Skoog	"





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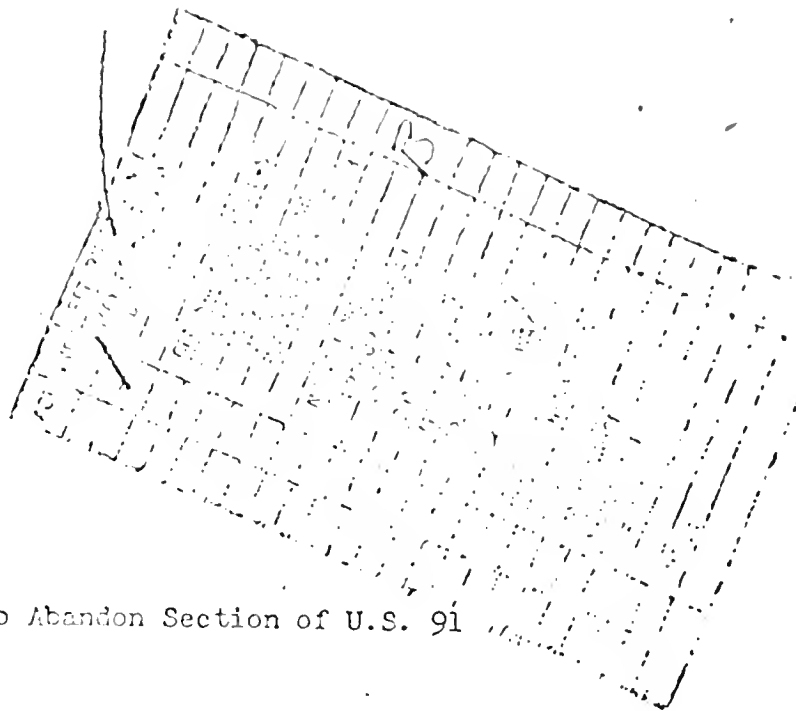
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**BUTTE**  
SILVER BOW COUNTY  
MONTANA

SCALE IN FEET  
2400 0 2400 4800



STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION  
RECEIVED  
AUG 10 1976  
HELENA, MONTANA  
August 6, 1976



State Highway Commission  
6th Avenue & Roberts St.  
Helena, Montana 59601

Reference: Anaconda Company Petition to Abandon Section of U.S. 91

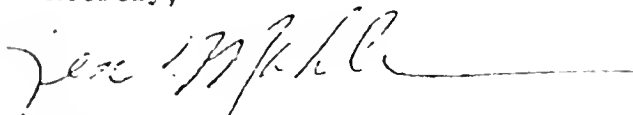
Gentlemen:

The Board of Directors of the Butte Chamber of Commerce has voted in support of the Anaconda Company's petition for abandonment of U.S. 91 from the top of Woodville Hill to the Continental Drive intersection at Butte, Montana.

It is our understanding that access would be provided by the Anaconda Company to other property owners with mining claims in the affected area. Although there would be some inconvenience to people presently using that road as a shortcut, we feel that the present situation constitutes a hazard to the public. We also believe that the existing road is impeding the progress of Anaconda's mining operations and could, therefore, seriously affect the economic well-being of the Butte-Silver Bow area.

We would also support efforts to determine feasibility of an alternate access to I-15.

Sincerely,

  
Ken Mahle  
President

KM;em

Copy: Eugene Tidball



RECEIVED  
MAR 18 1974  
MONTANA, MONTANA

# BUTTE UPTOWN ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 37 - BUTTE, MONTANA 59701

March 15, 1974

Montana Highway Department  
Helena, Mont. 59601

Gentlemen:

We note from the newspaper that the Anaconda Company has requested that U.S. Highway 91 on the section descending the Woodville hill into Butte be cut and abandoned.

Since this road is used by a substantial volume of traffic into the area represented by the Butte Uptown Association we are concerned about the proposal.

Our Board of Directors has adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved that this Association is opposed to cutting the Woodville hill section of U.S. Highway 91, as requested by the Anaconda Company, until and unless a suitable interchange is provided east of the present Harrison Avenue interchange on Interstate 15 such additional interchange to connect with Continental Drive."

We would suggest that a public hearing be held before any decision on the subject is made.

By order of the Board of Directors of the Butte Uptown Association

D. J. McCaig Secretary

15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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# PIONEER CONCRETE & FUEL, INC.

843 Maryland Avenue

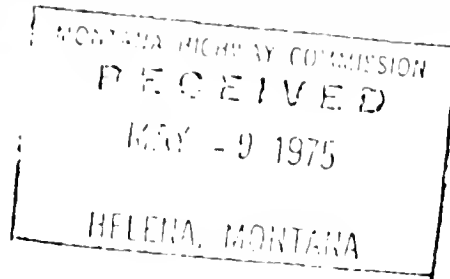
COAL

Washed Sand and Gravel

CEMENT

Ready Mixed Concrete

BUTTE, MONTANA 59701



May 7, 1975

State of Montana  
Department of Highways  
Helena, Montana 59601

Gentlemen:

In reply to your letter of May 1, 1975, regarding the abandonment of U.S. 91 Highway, North of Butte, we would like to advise you it will have no effect on our business.

Sincerely,

PIONEER CONCRETE & FUEL, INC.

*Ted J. Farrow*

TED J. FARROW  
PRESIDENT

TJF:cjt

Data Recd. Preprint <u>5-12-75</u>			
Act	Info	MAIL ROUTE	Attach Initial
		30	
		30 Imp. Specialties	
		31 Cement Floors	
		32 Loc. Road Design	
		33 Environmental	
		34 Hydraulic	
		35 Surveying Design	
		35 Photogrammetry	
		36 Traffic	
		37 Pub. Heating	
		38 San. Design	
		39 Consultant Design	
		40	



Act	Info	MAIL ROUTE	Address	Initial
		<del>31 Hydraulic</del>		
		<del>32 Electric</del>		
		<del>33 Mechanical</del>		
		<del>34 Civil</del>		
		<del>35 Chemical</del>		
		<del>36 Biological</del>		
		<del>37 Nuclear</del>		
		<del>38 Astronomical</del>		
		<del>39 Geological</del>		
		<del>40 Environmental</del>		
		<del>41 Interdisciplinary</del>		
		<del>42 Other</del>		
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May 9. 75  
Dyst of Highway!

Received your letter concerning  
the Anacardo Co. for about  
3.2 mi of O.S 91-11  
The life of the business is done mostly  
with Ranching & Farming, we do  
supply feed a lot Ranchers  
Herd of cattle. Our travels  
are on the new Highway.

My concerns are that  
this part of Highway should  
be closed so that the Anacardo  
Co. can expand open for  
mining.

It would benefit the town  
people for work & help  
Butte

Beckie Grain Co.

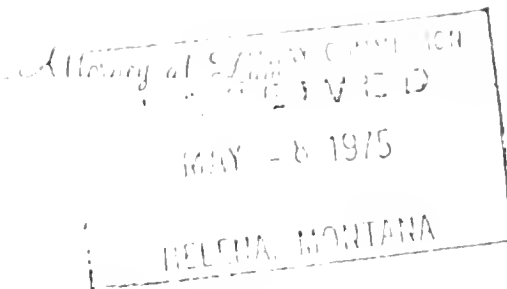
Yours Truly

W. H. Davis



GEORGE W. RICHARDSON

May 6, 1975



P. O. BOX 100  
BUTTE, MONTANA 59701  
TELEPHONE 242-2195

Department of Highways  
of Montana  
Helena, Montana 59601

Attention: Stephen C. Kologi, P.E.  
Chief, Preconstruction Bureau

Re: U.S. 91 Abandonment, North of Butte

Dear Mr. Kologi:

We are in receipt of your letter dated May 1, 1975.

We are absolutely against the closure of this section of U.S. Highway # 91.

We own valuable mining property which is bisected by this section of road and which we are contemplating developing by a diamond drilling program. We will need access and will be deprived of access if this road is abandoned.

We will take all legal steps necessary to preserve access to our valuable property.

Very truly yours,

*Frank Benich*

Frank Benich, President  
Vanbutte Exploration, Inc.

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Mail #22

TO: Director of Highways  
Mr. H. J. Anderson

PROTEST TO DISCONTINUATION OF  
STATE HIGHWAY 91 FROM HAYS STREET EAST TO INTERSTATE 1-15

Jerry's Distributing Co., as the lessee of Lots 8, 9, and 10 and the North 70 feet of Lot 11 and the North 72 feet of Lots 12 and 13, of the East Butte Addition, Silver Bow County, Montana, hereby object to and protest the discontinuation or closure of State Highway 91 from Hays Street East to Interstate 1-15 which directly effects the operation of its business conducted in the East Butte Addition, Silver Bow County, Montana, upon the following grounds:

1. On the ground that it conducts a distributing business located at 300 Cherry and that said Highway 91 is essential to continued access by it to markets located both in and out of Silver Bow County as well as access to its business premises in the East Butte Addition to the City of Butte.

2. That the business conducted by it will be effected by the closure of said highway and it has not joined in or authorized said closure.

3. On the ground that said closure of said Highway 91 cannot be done without detriment to the public interest.

Dated the 19th day of August, 1976.

JOHNSON, JOHNSON & KEBE

by William J. Kelle  
Attorneys for Jerry's Distributing Co  
6-10 First National Bank Building  
Butte, Montana 59701

Date Recd. Preconst		E 125/76	
ACT	Info	MAIL ROUTE	Initial
		30	
		30 Inc. Specialties	
		31 Contract Plans	
		32 Inc. Mail Des. ph	
		33 Environmental	
		34 Graphic	
		35 Contracting Design	
		36 Printing Assembly	
		<i>Quarry</i>	
		36 Traffic	
		37 Equipment	
		38 Inc. Mail Des. ph	
		39 Contracting Design	
		File	

Date Recd.		AUG 20 1976	
ACT	Info	R/W DUKLAU	Mail Route
		10 Chart	
		61 Asst. Engr	
		62 Plans	
		63 Approval	
		64 Approval	
		65 Utilities	
		66 Audit	
		67 Permit	
		68 Land	
Gen.			
Rel.			



77nd & 7th

TO: Director of Highways  
Mr. H. J. Anderson

PROTEST TO DISCONTINUATION OF  
STATE HIGHWAY 91 FROM HAYS STREET EAST TO INTERSTATE 1-15

G. W. Mullaney and E. L. Mullaney, as the owners of Lots 8, 9, and 10 and the North 70 feet of Lot 11 and the North 72 feet of Lots 12 and 13, of the East Butte Addition, Silver Bow County, Montana, hereby object to and protest the discontinuation or closure of State Highway 91 from Hays Street East to Interstate 1-15 which directly affects the East Butte Addition, Silver Bow County, Montana, upon the following grounds:

1. On the ground that they are owners of lots located in the East Butte Addition to the City of Butte and that said Highway 91 is essential to continued access by them to said lots located in the East Butte Addition.
2. That they are the owners of property effected by the closure of said highway and have not joined in or authorized said closure.
3. On the ground that said closure of said Highway 91 cannot be done without detriment to the public interest.

Dated the 19th day of August, 1976.

G. W. Mullaney  
G. W. Mullaney

E. L. Mullaney  
E. L. Mullaney  
612 W. Daly  
Walkerville, Montana

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STATE OF MONTANA  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE  
AERONAUTICS DIVISION  
CENTRALIZED SERVICES DIVISION  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION  
HIGHWAY SAFETY DIVISION  
HOUSING DIVISION

400/445 3494  
400/449-2500  
400/449-3707  
400/449-2402  
400/449 3412  
400/449 2804

HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION  
INDIAN AFFAIRS  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES DIVISION  
PLANNING DIVISION  
RESEARCH & INFORMATION SYSTEMS  
LIVELIHOOD

406/449-342  
406/449-274  
406/449-301  
406/449-375  
406/449-289

Montana's Agency for Planning &amp; Local Affairs

Mr. Stephen C. Kologli, P. E.  
Chief, Preconstruction Bureau  
Montana Department of Highways  
Helena, Montana 59601

RE: U.S. 91 Abandonment North of Butte

Dear Mr. Kologri:

The Montana Division of Aeronautics foresees no problems with Anaconda's wish to abandon a portion of old U.S. 91 as related to aeronautical activities in that area.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this proposed project.

Sincerely,

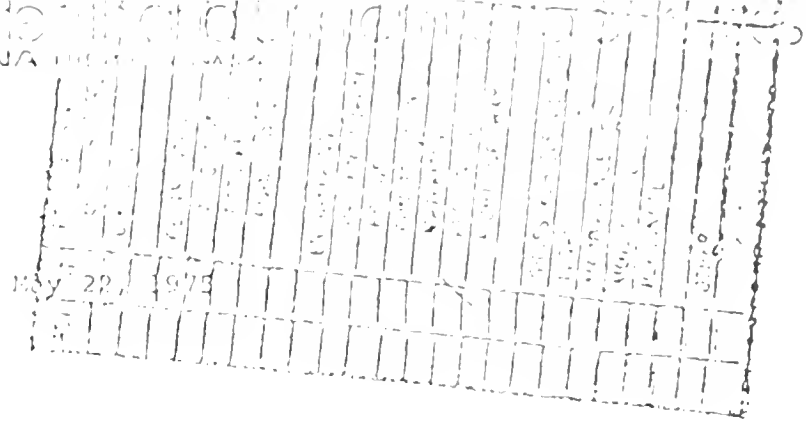
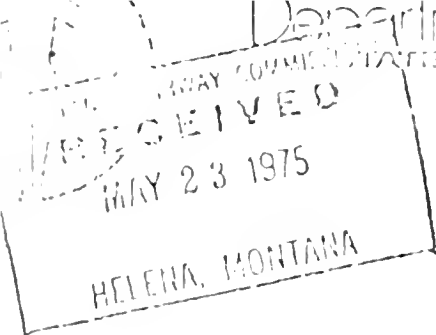
William E. Hunt, Administrator  
Aeronautics Division

Gerald C. Burrows  
Aviation Representative  
Airport and Airways Bureau

Date Recd. Preconst.	MAIL ROUTE	Info	Act
5-18-75	30- /	✓	
	30 Eng. Specialties		
	31 Contract Plans		
	32 Loc. Road Design	✓	
	33 Environmental		
	34 Hydraulic		
	35 Structural Design		
	35 Procurement	✓	
	<i>Deeds</i>	✓	
	36 Traffic		
	37 Pub. Hearing	✓	
	38 Sec. Union		
	39 Consultant Design		
	File	✓	

AGE	170	P.T. 10 15 7
		MAY BE RETURNED
		DIRECTOR
		CENTRALIZED SERVICES
		ACCOUNTING
		DATA PROCESSING
		TRAINING - RESEARCH
		ENGINEERING
		VEHICLE MAINTENANCE
		ELECTRICITY
		TELEVISION
		AUTOMOBILES
		PROJECTS - HIGH
		PORT-OF-WAY
		CONSTRUCTION
		LAND
		CONTRACTS
		PROPERTY
		LAND
		TOTAL





Stephen C. Kologi, P.E., Chief  
Preconstruction Bureau  
Department of Highways  
Helena, MT 59601

Re: U.S. 91 Abandonment  
North of Butte

Dear Mr. Kologi:

*Continental?*

The closure of U.S. 91 north of Butte would cause a problem for that portion of the motoring public using that road. To alleviate that problem, access to Interstate 15 and 90 should be provided from Columbia Drive. The increase of traffic on Columbia Drive would also increase the dust from this road. Since Butte already has a serious dust problem and Columbia Drive is a major source, we strongly recommend Columbia Drive be upgraded with curb and gutter and provided regular cleaning maintenance to minimize the dust problem.

With these two changes in existing roadways, we feel there should be no adverse effect on air quality by the referenced project.

Sincerely,

*R. Clark Neilson*

R. Clark Neilson  
Air Pollution Control Specialist  
Air Quality Bureau

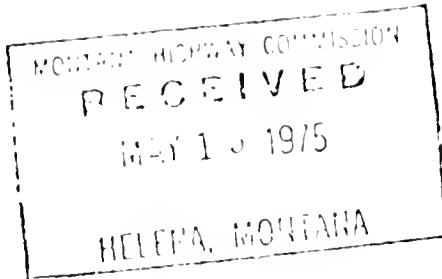
RCN:dmg

Date Recd. Processed: 5-23-75				
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

FAA BUILDING, ROOM 2  
HELENA AIRPORT  
HELENA, MONTANA 59601



May 14, 1975

Mr. Stephen C. Kologi, P. E.  
Supervisor - Preconstruction Section  
Montana Department of Highways  
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Mr. Kologi:

This will acknowledge your May 1, 1975, letter regarding a proposal to abandon a section of Federal-aid Route 3 in Butte, Montana.

The proposed project should not conflict with the Bert Mooney-Silver Bow County Airport. We appreciate being advised of the proposed project.

Sincerely,

*Robie B. Strickland*  
ROBIE B. STRICKLAND  
Chief, Airport District Office

Date Recd. Preconst. 5-15-75		MAIL ROUTE	Attach	Initial
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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
711 Central Avenue  
Billings, Montana 59102

May 27, 1975

Your Reference:  
U.S. 91 Abandonment  
North of Butte

Mr. Stephen C. Kolagi  
Chief Preconstruction Bureau  
Department of Highways  
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Mr. Kolagi:

Your letter dated May 1, 1975, concerning the abandonment of 3.2 miles of U.S. Highway 91 north of Butte, Montana, was forwarded to this office by the Office of Environmental Project Review, Department of the Interior.

Based on the limited data provided with your letter and on informal consultation with Montana Department of Fish and Game personnel, we do not foresee any adverse impacts on fish and wildlife resources by the abandonment of this highway. Ultimately, any damage to these resources will result from expansion of the Anaconda Mine and not from abandonment of the highway.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely yours,

*Burton W. Rounds*

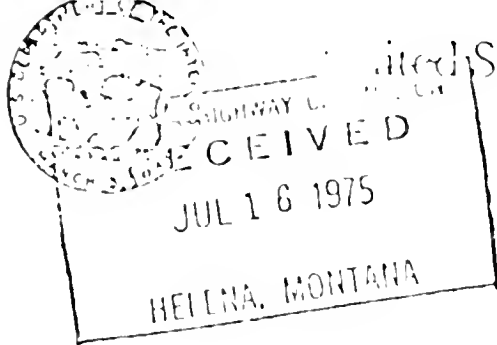
Burton W. Rounds  
Area Manager

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DATE	5-28-75
RECD.	PRECONSTRUCTION
MAIL ROUTE	
INFO	
ACT	
1	20 Env. Survey
2	21 Env. Impact
3	22 Env. Impact
4	23 Env. Impact
5	24 Hydraulic
6	25 Sur. and Drain
7	26 Hydrograph
8	27 Butte
9	28 Butte
10	29 Sec. Urban
11	30 Consultant Design
12	File







# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF MINES

EAST 315 MONTGOMERY AVENUE  
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99207

Western Field Operation Center  
July 15, 1975

Mr. Steven C. Kologi, PE  
Chief, Preconstruction Bureau  
Montana Department of Highways  
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear Mr. Kologi:

Your request to the Department of the Interior for comment on proposed abandonment of U.S. 91 north of Butte, Montana, has been referred to this office for review of possible mineral involvement.

The document does not discuss mineral resources, which is the primary reason for the highway abandonment. The beneficial effect of the additional copper resources to be developed by phasing out this section of the road are great and should be considered when an environmental statement is prepared.

These comments are intended only to provide technical assistance and do not constitute a formal Department of the Interior or Bureau of Mines review. Should an environmental statement be prepared, we would appreciate the opportunity to review it.


Sincerely yours,

R. N. Appling, Jr., Chief  
Western Field Operation Center

Date Recd. Preconst. 7-16-75	
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	File







## POCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL OFFICE

655 Pacific Street  
P.O. BOX 4227  
Denver, Colo. 80202

4. 11. 1955

[illegible]

*Save Energy and You Serve America!*



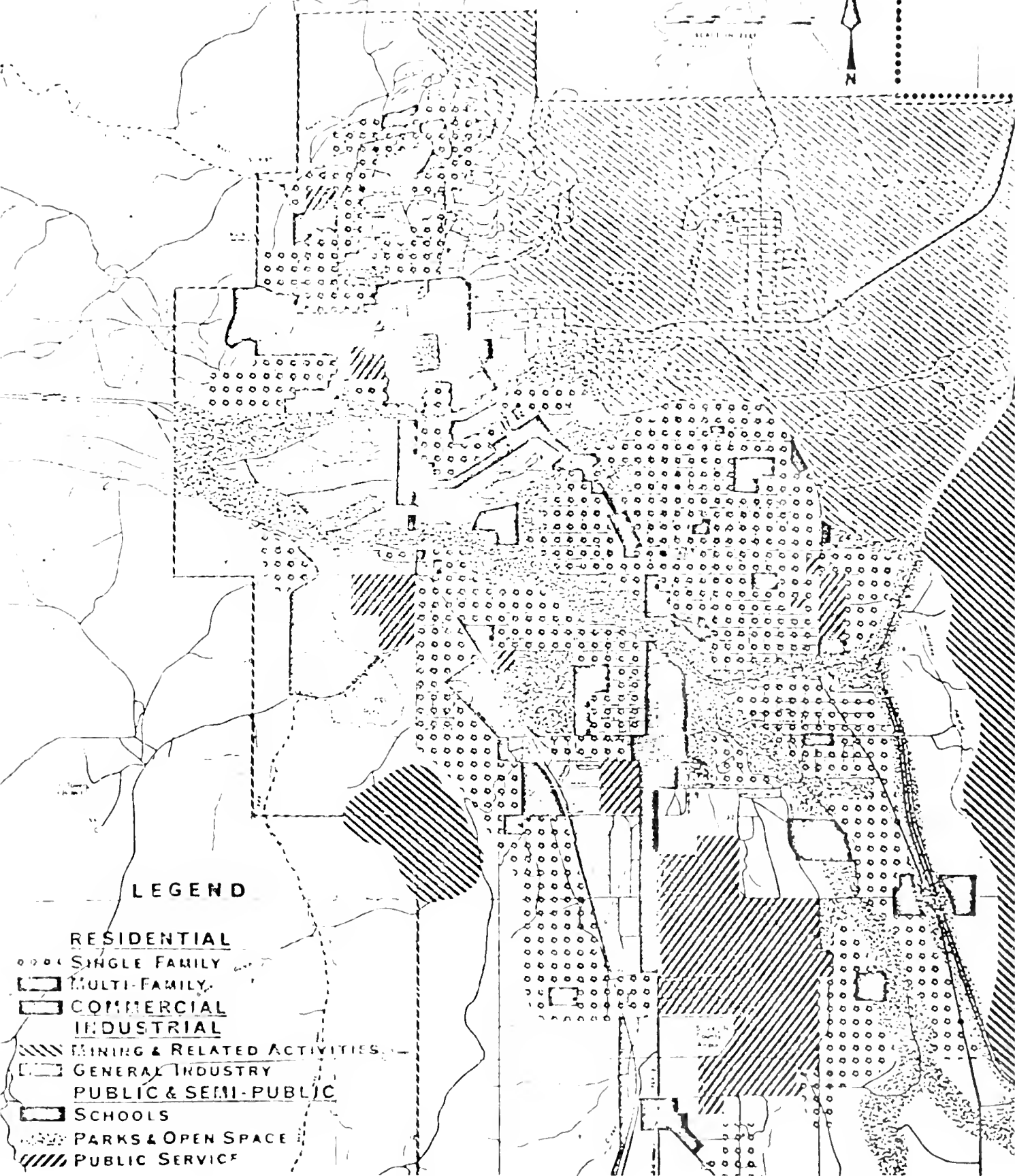


A P P E N D I X



FIGURE IV-3

SOURCE: BUTTE URBAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY  
1990 LAND-USE PLAN





# flats

Flats is characterized by a predominance of single family detached housing which has been developed on a dominant grid pattern. With the exception of the Hillcrest Area, a newly developing subdivision, this study area is extremely homogeneous. Major problems include cross traffic through potential neighborhood areas, the adjacent and expanding Anaconda operations, poor development of major peripheral traffic arterials (Harrison Ave. and Continental Dr.) and lack of neighborhood identity.

Although homogeneous in physical form, there are existing elements which could be utilized to delineate neighborhoods. Fortunately, the study area has well-defined peripheral boundaries. However, internal boundary definition breaks down. Nevertheless, there is potential to utilize feeder streets in conjunction with existing facilities such as schools, parks, neighborhood commercial areas, and the hospital to form neighborhood boundaries.

Harrison Ave. continues to be the major problem area. Its status as a major traffic arterial is impeded by and conflicts with the strip commercial activities. The result is a mile of arterial which cannot move traffic efficiently, and because of the number of uncontrolled access points and cross streets, the situation is hazardous.

SOURCE: Butte Neighborhoods, Butte-Silver Bow City County Planning Board. October, 1973.



# existing conditions

